

**Probation Officers Advisory Board  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
April 8, 2008**

The Probation Officers Advisory Board of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 8, 2008.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Advisory Board were present: Christina Ball, Rusty Fultz, Melanie Golumbeck, Eric Ivie, Lonna Jordan, Susan Lightfoot, Joe Lutz, Nate Mendill, Brenda Ogborn, Mike Pate, Susan Rice, Wayne Schaffter, Shannon Schmaltz, Kipp Scott, Travis Shepherd, Mike Sinks, Nancy Susott, Sheila Tempel, Don Travis, Lori White, Jean Wilkinson, and Steve Eyrick, chair.
2. **Staff present.** Jane Seigel, Jenny Bauer, Bob Champion and Michelle Goodman provided staff assistance to the Advisory Board.
3. **Minutes approved.** The October 16, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
4. **Committee reports.**
  - a) Education. Shannon Schmaltz reported that the 2008 Annual Meeting of Probation Officers is scheduled for May 1&2 at the Convention Center in Indianapolis. He explained that several unique circumstances will require a variation on the format of the opening day. Because of the passage of HB 1001 and its impact on juvenile probation, there will be a special “early” session to inform juvenile probation departments about the changes required by the legislation. The opening session will be shorter than usual because there is not a keynote speaker this year. As a result, the Judicial Center is able to offer 10 break-out sessions on Thursday, rather than the usual 5 sessions. Mr. Schmaltz reported that the sessions will cover the following topics: new case law/legislation, methamphetamine, juvenile substance abuse, sex offenders, demographics, urine testing, intrastate transfer of probation, and Functional Family Therapy. Steve Eyrick stated that he heard many positive responses from probation officers who attended the Judicial Center’s recent Alcohol and Drug Program Conference. He said that many of these officers asked why the programming for the Probation Annual Meeting is not of the same quality. Mr. Eyrick also stated that the Probation Annual Meeting needs to offer more evidence-based programming. Joe Lutz stated that the direction of probation is changing and training offered to probation officers needs to reflect the change. Jane Seigel suggested appointing a task force to study where probation is heading. She stated that this

group would be proactive in the area of possible state funding for probation and should meet with Chief Justice Shepard to discuss the issue. The following Board members volunteered to serve on the task force: Don Travis, Kipp Scott, Joe Lutz, Eric Ivie, Lonna Jordan, Travis Sheperd, Jean Wilkinson, and Steve Eyrick.

- b) **Hot Topics.** Susan Lightfoot reported that the committee continues its work on the Risk Assessment Task Force. The Task Force met with Dr. Ed Latessa from the University of Cincinnati to learn about the Ohio risk assessment project. After hearing the details of the project from Dr. Latessa, the Task Force decided to pursue use of the Ohio instrument in Indiana. Ms. Lightfoot indicated that the Judicial Conference Board of Directors must approve moving forward with the project. Representatives from the Judicial Center plan to meet soon with the commissioner of the Department of Correction to determine if DOC will also move forward in securing use of the Ohio instrument.
- c) **Supervision.** Lori White reported that the committee sent its survey on best practices to chief probation officers in December 2007. The survey consisted of 11 questions covering topics related to office administration and evidence-based practices. Ms. White stated that the response rate to the survey was very good, with 94 out of 150 probation departments responding. The committee will use the information from the survey to develop content for the on-line best practices guide. The committee also decided that the topics for the initial roll-out of the guide will include office administration, offender treatment/therapy, training and professional development, offender supervision, and evidence-based practices. Ms. White stated that a portion of the content for the guide should be posted to the Judicial Center's website during the summer.

- 5. **POPAI report.** Don Travis reported that POPAI training for new chief probation officers was well-attended, with over 40 new chief probation officers in attendance. Mr. Travis also reported that POPAI is sponsoring two separate sessions at the 2008 Annual Meeting of Probation Officers: a session on demographics and a session on functional family therapy and multi-systemic therapy.
- 6. **Augustus Award vote.** The Board conducted a secret ballot to choose the 2008 recipient of the Augustus Award. The nominees were Wayne Addison-Hancock County, Marci Maris-Benton County, and Jennifer Jovanovich-Porter County. The recipient will be announced at the opening session of the Annual Meeting.

7. **HB 1001.** Jane Seigel reported that a special early session will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on HB 1001 in light of its effect on juvenile probation. The Judicial Center is requiring that at least one representative from each probation department with juvenile jurisdiction attend the session. Don Travis stated that the final version of 1001 involved tremendous compromise between judges and DCS. He stated that the outcome of the bill is that probation officers do probation work and Department of Child Service workers do DCS work.
8. **Interstate Compact—ICOTS Update.** Nita Wright from the Judicial Center's Compact Office reported that the Interstate Compact's new offender tracking system- ICOTS- is set to be piloted in June. Ms. Wright announced that Indiana was chosen as one of 5 states to participate in the pilot launch. The other states participating in the pilot are Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina and Ohio. The planned national launch for the ICOTS system is August. Ms. Wright explained that she has been to Lexington, Kentucky several times this year to participate in focus group meetings in preparation for the launch of the pilot. Ms. Wright stated that the benefits of the new system will be that it is entirely paperless, users will be able to track the progress of cases and the national office will be able to audit the system for rules compliance. Ms. Wright further explained that the system is very user friendly and that the Judicial Center plans to use the 92 compact contacts as the initial users for Indiana during the pilot. Jane Seigel added that the Judicial Center is very excited that Indiana gets to participate in the pilot and have an impact on the final look of the ICOTS system.
9. **Other business.** Mike Sinks announced a free training on mental preparedness for surviving violent encounters. He stated that anyone interested in the training can contact him for more details.
10. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Advisory Board is July 8, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
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